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BUCK SLIP

11 October 1965

FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Memorandum, "Growing North Vietnamese Air Defense Capabilities," dated 11 October 1965

- 1. The attached memo is a quick look at the air defense build-up in the DRV. It also outlines some of the possible implications of this build-up. We have prepared it principally for your information, and are giving it a highly restricted circulation within the Agency.
- 2. In SNIE 10-11-65, we estimated the consequences of a US course of action which, among other things, called for strikes against the main concentrations of the DRV's air defenses. The attached memo takes a look at the other side of the coin, i.e., what we might expect if such a US course of action is not undertaken.
- 3. The air defense build-up in the DRV and the problems it is creating for the US strike program are the subject of a comprehensive study now being prepared at the direction of the JCS. The study is scheduled for completion within the next week or so. It will include, in addition to detailed information on the DRV build-up and US air operations, recommended actions for improving the effectiveness of the US strike program.

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4. The completion and release of the above study may be the stimulus for another SNIE. We recommend no further circulation of this memo pending the surfacing of the JCS study.

SHERMAN KENT

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